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Project Structure & Technical Setup

/app

/api # API routes for backend functionality

/components # Reusable UI components

/lib # Utility functions and shared code

/models # MongoDB schema models

/public # Static assets

/(routes) # Page routes based on app router

/page.jsx # Homepage

/hostels/page.jsx

/bookings/page.jsx

/admin/page.jsx

/auth/page.jsx

2. Core Features

User Roles (as shown in your diagram)

- **Students:** Browse, search, and book hostels
- **Hostel Owners:** Manage their hostel listings
- **Admins:** System administration and oversight

Key Functionality

1. Authentication System

- Student login/signup with university credentials
- Hostel owner registration and verification
- Admin dashboard access

2. Hostel Discovery

- Search by location, price, amenities
- Map-based search using Maps API

- Filters (price range, distance from campus, etc.)
- 3. **Booking System**
 - Room selection
 - Date selection
 - Paystack integration for mobile money payments
 - Booking confirmation and receipt
- 4. **Hostel Management (for owners)**
 - Add/edit hostel listings
 - Manage room availability
 - View bookings and occupancy
 - Process payments and refunds
- 5. **Admin Features**
 - Monitor system activity
 - Manage users (students and hostel owners)
 - Generate reports on bookings and usage
 - System configuration options

3. UI Design Elements

Homepage

- Hero section showcasing the best hostels
- Quick search feature
- Featured hostels near the university
- Testimonials from students

Navigation

- Main navigation bar with: Home, Hostels, Bookings, About, Contact
- User account dropdown (My Bookings, Profile, etc.)
- Footer with links to important university resources

Hostel Listings Page

- Grid/list view toggle
- Map view option
- Detailed filters
- Sort by price, rating, distance

Single Hostel Page

- Photo gallery
- Amenities list
- Room types and availability
- Reviews and ratings

- Location map
- Booking form

4. Database Schema (MongoDB)

// User Schema

```
{
  _id: ObjectId,
  role: String, // "student", "hostelOwner", "admin"
  name: String,
  email: String,
  password: String, // hashed
  studentId: String, // for students
  phoneNumber: String,
  profileImage: String,
  createdAt: Date,
  updatedAt: Date
}
```

// Hostel Schema

```
{
  _id: ObjectId,
  name: String,
  description: String,
  address: String,
  location: {
    type: "Point",
    coordinates: [Number, Number] // [longitude, latitude]
  },
  owner: ObjectId, // reference to User
}
```

```
images: [String],
amenities: [String],
policies: String,
verified: Boolean,
rating: Number,
reviews: [ObjectId], // reference to Reviews
createdAt: Date,
updatedAt: Date
}
```

```
// Room Schema
```

```
{
  _id: ObjectId,
  hostelId: ObjectId, // reference to Hostel
  name: String,
  type: String, // e.g., "single", "double", "shared"
  description: String,
  price: Number,
  capacity: Number,
  amenities: [String],
  images: [String],
  availability: Boolean,
  createdAt: Date,
  updatedAt: Date
}
```

```
// Booking Schema
```

```
{
  _id: ObjectId,
```

```
roomId: ObjectId, // reference to Room
hostelId: ObjectId, // reference to Hostel
userId: ObjectId, // reference to User
checkInDate: Date,
checkOutDate: Date,
status: String, // "pending", "confirmed", "cancelled"
paymentStatus: String, // "pending", "paid", "refunded"
paymentId: String, // Paystack reference
totalAmount: Number,
createdAt: Date,
updatedAt: Date
}
```

// Review Schema

```
{
  _id: ObjectId,
  hostelId: ObjectId, // reference to Hostel
  userId: ObjectId, // reference to User
  rating: Number,
  comment: String,
  createdAt: Date,
  updatedAt: Date
}
```

5. API Routes Structure

/api/auth

- /login
- /signup
- /logout

/api/hostels

- GET: List all hostels with filtering
- POST: Create new hostel (hostelOwner only)
- /:id - GET: Single hostel details
- /:id - PUT: Update hostel details
- /:id - DELETE: Remove hostel listing

/api/rooms

- GET: List rooms by hostel
- POST: Add new room (hostelOwner only)
- /:id - GET, PUT, DELETE

/api/bookings

- GET: User's bookings
- POST: Create new booking
- /:id - GET, PUT, DELETE
- /verify-payment

/api/admin

- /stats
- /users
- /settings

6. Integration with Paystack

1. Setup Paystack account and get API keys
2. Implement payment flow:
 - Initialize transaction
 - Redirect to Paystack payment page

- Handle callback and verification
- Update booking status based on payment status

7. Maps Integration

1. Implement the Maps API for:
 - Showing hostel locations on a map
 - Distance calculation from university
 - Location-based search
 - Directions to hostels

8. Unique Features to Make It Stand Out

1. **Virtual Tours:** 360° views of rooms and facilities
2. **Room Comparison:** Side-by-side comparison of different rooms
3. **Roommate Finder:** Optional feature for students to find compatible roommates
4. **Maintenance Requests:** Allow students to report issues directly through the app
5. **Academic Calendar Integration:** Show important university dates
6. **Local Services Map:** Show nearby shops, restaurants, and services
7. **Flexible Booking Options:** Semester-long, monthly, or short-term stays
8. **Reward System:** Points for loyal users, reviews, or referrals

9. Development Phases

Phase 1: Foundation

- Authentication system
- Basic hostel listings
- Simple search functionality

Phase 2: Core Features

- Advanced search and filters
- Booking system
- Payment integration

Phase 3: Enhanced Features

- Maps integration
- Reviews and ratings
- Admin dashboard

Phase 4: Premium Features

- Virtual tours
- Roommate finder
- Maintenance requests